



The Haldeman Mansion Preservation Society

ISSUE 2

December 2020

The Locust Grove Estate is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is located alongside the mouth of Conoy Creek, bordering the east bank of the Susquehanna River in Conoy Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. It is home to the 18th Century Haldeman Mansion, the birthplace of Professor Samuel Steman Haldeman who “epitomized the early 19th Century generation of scholars who advanced American science and letters to a position of cultural independence from Europe” (Sorenson). The mansion is at the heart of five documented, noncontiguous Native American settlements.

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Remarks from the President

The year 2020 has been unusual for all of us. As for our Society, we have seen the loss of former President Margaret Hunt Landis and two Board members, the canceling of our annual social events and, consequently, a reduction in income. The loss of Board members was due to the passing of Karen Wenger and Lora Shirey leaving to start a new business in York, PA. We wish her success.

Positive developments include Timothy Smedick, who is serving as Interim Operations Manager. In this job, Tim will work 20 hours a month overseeing the restoration and continue providing grant writing services. Scott Paden and Gemma de la Fuente, Citadel DCA, continue to provide architectural assistance. A bronze bust of Samuel S. Haldeman was donated by Joe Hottenstein. Other developments include organization of a wedding venue promotional effort, completion of a river overlook patio, exterior door and porch column renovations, and the beginning of Grand Foyer renovations. These signal our progress and ongoing dedication to our mission.

I want to thank those who "gave extra" on November 20th. Those who chose to help us raise matching funds for two of our interior restoration grants! We will not know the exact amount donated until January 2021. However, early indications are it will exceed \$5,000. We greatly appreciate our donors!

Concerns over the spreading of the Coronavirus this fall and winter are leaving our 2021 activity plans up in the air. We will reassess the situation in early spring and keep you abreast of our plans. During this unusual and difficult time, we appreciate the support our membership has provided, Please keep us in mind as we endeavor to fill two vacancies on our Board of Directors and keep our restoration efforts alive.

As difficult as these times may be, we know that our predecessors endured far more difficult challenges. We will endure and continue our lives and pursue our passions. We wish each of you a joyous Holiday Season and Happy New Year!

Ken Beard, President

In Memory of Margaret Hunt Landis

(1931-1920)



Margaret Hunt Landis joined the Haldeman Mansion Preservation Society because of her love of local history and restoration. Her direct interaction with HMPS started in 1983 when she became President. She immediately saw the problem with raising restoration funds was that HMPS was not the owner of the property. She was a friend of Mrs. William R Baker (wife of the President of J E Baker & Co., the owner of the property). Margaret inquired about the possibility of J E Baker & Co deeding the mansion and adjacent buildings to HMPS. J E Baker Company agreed and Margaret worked with the company to deed the mansion, summer kitchen, carriage house and 2.68 acres for a consideration of \$1!

She immediately tackled the task of continuing restoration and through her efforts HMPS was the recipient of a number of grants which allowed replacement of the piazza on the west, complete drainage and other elements of exterior restoration. Grants were given by Lancaster County Commissioners (\$100,000), U S Department of the Interior (\$17,500), State of PA (\$4,000) Lancaster County (\$4,000).

A new well was drilled to provide pure water for the many fund raising events.

Margaret was forward thinking and had a dream that HMPS be restored and be on a firm financial basis. Her plan was to locate 2 apartments on the second floor to allow continued upkeep and restoration of the mansion. The second floor would house the Samuel Steman Haldeman library and museum. First floor meeting rooms, third floor for a grad student/caretaker person. She led HMPS on a major Capitals Fund drive. A grant of \$27,000 was made from LCCF contingent upon matching funds, The funds were matched quickly with major contributions by Ogden Martin Systems (\$16,325) Legislative Museum Development Grant (\$15,000) and 300 other contributors. Margaret and the Board of Directors dream was denied by the Conoy Township Zoning Board to her great disappointment.

She developed a slide show entitled "Samuel Steman Haldeman, The Man and His Mansion" and presented it many times.

In 1990 she contacted Pennsylvania History & Museum to inquire if the birthplace of Professor Samuel S Haldeman qualified for an historical highway marker. They acknowledged his accomplishments and Margaret worked with PHMC on the marker which now stands on Route 441 south of the mansion,

Margaret continued sharing her wisdom, knowledge and contacts throughout the years and HMPS is stronger and continues because of the foundation she provided.

By Norma J. Bair (Former HMPS President)

In Memory of Karen Wenger

(1950-2020)



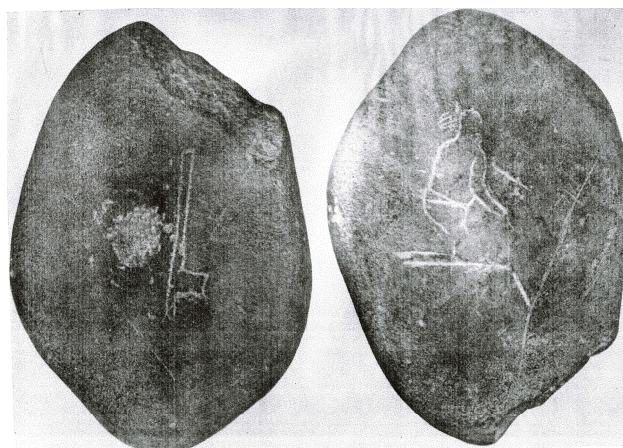
Karen joined the Haldeman Mansion Preservation Society's Board of Directors in the spring of 2018. Though her time with us was all too short, she left a lasting impression with her sound advice and willingness to volunteer her time, including assisting with social events, supervising a young boy scout who implemented environmental projects on our property and creating promotional materials and banners.

Karen was a remarkable person, she joined us, participating as a very active member, even though she was battling aggressive stage 4 thyroid cancer. An active supporter of a number of local non-profit organizations, she was knowledgeable and actively engaged in environmental advocacy and watershed restoration. Those who knew her were inspired by her zest for life, love of nature and generosity of spirit.

Did You Know

A Native American pictograph was found within the newly designated Locust Grove Archaeological District in 1948?

Pennsylvania State Archaeologist John Whitthoft and an associate archaeologist Sam S. Farver found a large flat river stone as they were exiting the District's Brandt Site in March 1948. On one side was etched a ceremonial calumet pipe and fire pit and on the opposite side what appeared to be a seated Native American with five upright feathers projecting from his head, which they observed was a head dress "well known in Seneca and other Six Nations ethnology".



They dated the pictograph from the Colonial Period (1600's-1776) based on the presence of the calumet pipe. The Susquehannocks (c1624-1645) and Conoy Indians (1718-1743) are known to have been present within the District during this period, however, the two archaeologists, at the time of their find, had no solid evidence of where Conoy Town was located. They assumed the pictograph was most likely of Susquehannock origin.

Today, archaeologists know the location of Conoy Town and have the view that the Town was not a closely knit village, but rather a scattering of cabins and/or lodges more or less within the District. It is also possible that the two archaeologists were not aware of a 1743 letter in which Conoy Chief Old Sack informed the Pennsylvania Governor that when they settled at Conoy Town, "the Six Nations came down and made their fire, and all the great men declared the fire of their kindling to be in token of their approval of the settlement".

The two archeologists reported their find in the Pennsylvania Archaeologist, Vol. XIX, No. 3-4. They suggested in the article the pictograph was "one of the unique and peculiar specimens which raised insolvable questions and plague us with impossible suggestions". I, for one, would like to believe the pictograph is an important artifact that marked the beginning of the last Native American habitation at Locust Grove.

Wedding and Family Events To Be Promoted

The Society retained the services of the Philadelphia firm Urban Partners in the Fall of 2019 to develop a fiscal assessment of the organization's long-term operational costs and potential revenues as well as its requirements for financing of needed capital improvements. Based on the study's analysis and recommendations, the Society has decided to promote the Mansion and its grounds as an important wedding venue to raise funds to restore and maintain the Haldeman Mansion and fulfill the Society's mission as a community gathering place, local history museum and educational center.

Over the years, the Haldeman Mansion has been an occasional location for weddings and special family events. Their frequency has declined in recent years. Now Joe Hottenstein, former Society President and current Board of Directors member, and his wife Joyce have offered to promote and manage weddings and family events for the Society.

They have purchased a wedding tent and created packages that include the grounds and tent to hold outside weddings and family gatherings, as renovations within the mansion continue. They are offering their facility which is 400 ft. down the drive from the mansion, for dressing areas and overnight guest accommodations. They are also able to supply round tables, table cloths and chair covers. A property rental fee will be paid to the Society. For general and booking information call 717-426-2343 or Email: vonhottenstein@gmail.com.



River Overlook Completed

Thanks to a Riverlands Grant from the Lancaster Conservancy, we have completed installation of a small patio and sitting wall providing an overlook of the Susquehanna river. The location is the site of an unidentified structure on an 1853 survey of the property and, more recently, the house's last privy. That grant also helped fund removal of the invasive vegetation that had colonized the former Pennsylvania canal right-of-way and obscured most of the river view.



Interestingly a portion of the 1850s era structure was unearthed during site preparation. Some limestone from the structure was utilized in the wall along with stone salvaged from a Rheems area barn. Site preparation, stone masonry, hardscaping and landscaping were completed by Ed Mohr, Aaron Burkholder, and Zeager Landscaping.

Did You Know

The hearth stone in Professor Samuel Steman Haldeman's (1812-1880) Chickies' mansion drawing room fireplace was the original top step of the main entrance to Independence Hall in Philadelphia?



When Henry Haldeman (1787-1849) purchased it for the Professor, he thought it was the step from which the Declaration of Independence was first read. An article in the July 1, 1897 Philadelphia Press mentioned Henry's purchase and set the record straight. The actual reading was "from an observatory in the square then standing a little distance to the south" of Independence Hall. When the Chickies mansion was dismantled in March 1911, Horace L. Haldeman, a nephew of the Professor purchased the hearth stone.

Source: "Haldeman And Breneman Families of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania And Their Connections, the Steman, Snyder and Lindemuth Families With Notes on the Early Settlers of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania"; compiled for private distribution by Horace Leander Haldeman; Haldeman Mansion Preservation Society Archives.

What the Haldeman Mansion Means to Me

by April Reynolds

Rising from the banks of the picturesque Susquehanna River, crowning the lush green triple tiered lawn, the stately stone presence of the Historic Haldeman mansion regally graces the Locust Grove landscape and sets the stage for the scenes of my childhood. My earliest memories of the mansion consist of running pell-mell down the three banks of lawn until my little legs, overcome by my speed would trip me up and send me rolling and giggling hysterically through the grass the rest of the way. From those early days until years later, when the miraculous occurrence of a single ray of sun beam pierced the hurricane clouded skies of my wedding day, the mansion has inspired the daydreams and hosted the imagination of some of the best years of my life.

How could I ever forget the building excitement as the days of the yearly Strawberry Festival, Summer Craft show (officially known as the Autumn Apple Festival) or Indian camp outs drew near. Filled with childish pride of ownership and belonging, you would find me running up and down the driveway while the cars began filing in, flitting in and out of the kitchen filling up with the smells of fresh strawberries and cakes, ringing my little bell behind the ladies choir in their period costumes and dancing my heart out to the live bands while imagining myself to be a grand ballerina in a ballroom or an Indian princess pow wowing to the deep throated drum beats echoing through the hills.

Creativity and courage grew with a little bit of age and with younger siblings to inspire, slipping out of the house at night with my brother and sister, sneaking in the back window of the mansion and up the stairs to “spy” on the super-secret goings on of the presiding historical committee meetings down below became the new game. In our young minds these gatherings were surely a cover for international plots and suspicious recruiting grounds for espionage schemes. We were so confident in our stealth and skill that we never dreamt that the pitter patter of our little feet or our hushed whispers and giggles could possibly filter down through the floorboards and fireplaces to be heard by the committee members below.

As the endless days of youthful abandon progressed into the more serene years of adolescence, my favorite place was on an old patchwork quilt spread out beneath the unique sun speckled patterns of the Ginkgo leaves blowing in the breeze. Laying on my back, I would gaze up through the green-gold aura of the canopy above and imagine how proud this grand old tree must be knowing that it was the first of its kind to be grown from seed here in America and wondering if it felt a connection to its roots overseas. Daydreams of foreign lands blended with my own fantasies of the future to form a pleasant mix of memory and imagination that remains with me to this day.

The busyness of teen years brought on by the responsibilities, jobs and time with friends that came with a driver’s license, left me with little time to spend in and around the old mansion. But it was there every early morning as I left for school or work and every night when I came home, sitting silently on top of the hill, strong and steadfast watching over my comings and goings like a trustworthy old uncle. A quick glance up at the grey stone walls always filled me with a sense of joy and security.

When the time came for my boyfriend to become my fiancée, I knew immediately where my wedding would be. I prayed long and hard over the date of this most important event in my young life, asking God to help me pick a day that would be perfect for a wedding at the mansion. As the time drew near, we

learned that an unwelcomed guest was on her way.

Hurricane Fran was heading up the coast on a clear path to my wedding day. It was going to be a disaster. Common sense dictated that another venue be found, but I was sure that God had promised me a wedding on the tiered lawn in front of the mansion that meant so much to me. And He came through! The first downpours hit Friday, but as we gathered for rehearsal inside the front room to discuss what we should do, we realized it wasn't raining anymore so we went ahead with the rehearsal. The minute we all stepped back on the historic brick porch, it started to pour with a vengeance and continued through the night.

The next morning the rain stopped again and thumbing our noses at tradition, my husband-to-be and I greeted our guests with shouts and waves from the upstairs window where we waited with our attendants for our ceremony to begin. By the time I walked through the lawn and up the stairs, the wind had blown the grass dry so I could ditch my shoes and go barefoot. Fran did not ruin my wedding. The only glitch was when we tried to light the unity candle and the wind kept blowing it out. But those watching said a single beam of sunlight broke through the clouds at that moment and shone down on us just as it finally lit.



We even had the hot air balloon we planned on. The pilot was a friend and guest who had come without the balloon because there was "a hurricane everywhere else". He couldn't believe we had calm at the mansion. He hurried home to get it so we could at least go up a little bit, but it took the strength of all the young men in attendance to hold onto the ropes to keep us from blowing away. We had to leave by car the traditional way instead of balloon as imagined but we were happy to have what we did and as we drove away, the raindrops were starting and once we were out of town we found ourselves in the thick of what was left of Hurricane Fran.

We learned later that many guests did not come because of Fran, assuming we would postpone our day. We also heard from a co-worker who mentioned that she had looked towards Bainbridge that morning and noticing a lighter spot in the clouds in our direction, said a prayer for our day. Many brides may have rainy skies turn sunny on their wedding day, but it takes an act of a loving God to make an outdoor mansion wedding possible in the middle of a hurricane. I am truly thankful to Him for that precious gift. I just could not imagine having my wedding anywhere else, for there is no other place on earth as precious to me as this beautiful place called Locust Grove and the Haldeman Mansion.

Even now, although I've grown up and moved away, the mansion still holds a special place in my heart. I have brought my kids back here and watched them run down the banks of the lawn, race along the low stone wall and shown them some of my secret places inside the house. And for just a moment, I'm back there with them, just a little girl sharing her treasures with the boys she loves most in this world, full of giggles and laughter and no cares in the world.

The people from my childhood are mostly gone, as are the trees I was married under, but their whispers echo in my memory and as I sit on the front porch and gaze out over the grounds I am filled with a deep sense of love and overwhelming nostalgia for this little corner of heaven here on earth. It brings me joy to know that the mansion is open for weddings once again and perhaps one day another bride will find the beautiful beginning to her new life as I once did.

Joe Hottenstein Donates A Bronze Bust of Professor Samuel Steman Haldeman



Joe Hottenstein, a former president of HMPS and current Board member, is a long time Locust Grove resident, living next to the lane that rises to meet the Haldeman Mansion. He has extensive experience in the art sign, restoration and sculpture fields, skills which he has used to create masterpieces for our Society. Above is a photo of his most recent work, a bronze bust sculpture donated to the Society this fall. It depicts Professor Samuel Steman Haldeman when he was in his 50's. It has been placed in the mansion's museum room, where one can see a similar sculpture of the Professor when he was in his 80's, also sculpted and donated by Joe.

Joe quietly goes about his work in the interior of Locust Grove's massive old sawmill, across the lane, opposite his residence, where in the 1970's he designed the HMPS Bicentennial commemorative plate. Putting in long hours and little recognized for his work, rumor has it that he is now working on sculpting bronze tableaux that depict the four historical eras of the locust Grove area. Wikipedia, the internet, tells us sculpting a bust can take anywhere from two to four months to complete. The Society appreciates Joe's dedication to recording Locust Groves history thru his art work.

Did You Know

The location of the Haldeman Homestead?

The Haldeman Mansion, as we know, is located at Locust Grove, next to the confluence of the Conoy Creek and Susquehanna River. However, it was not considered to be the family homestead. The Haldeman Homestead was to the immediate east, where the Billmeyer Quarry is located today. It was destroyed by the expansion of the Billmeyer Quarry operations c1953 and was the home to the family cemetery, which has since been moved next to Route 441, when it was threatened by quarry expansion.



In the early 1900's John's Haldeman's (1753-1832) nephew Horace Leander Haldeman (1847-1920) wrote "Here John Haldeman resided until he removed to the Locust Grove property, which he purchased on September 20, 1785. He built on the latter property (Locust Grove), about 1811, the stone residence, the grist mill (1790) and later the distillery now standing".^{1/}

In our next newsletter we will include an article on the Haldeman Homestead written by Fay Landis Burke, who lived there sixteen years, from the age of six.

1/ Source: "Haldeman And Breneman Families of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania And Their Connections, the Steman, Snyder and Lindemuth Families With Notes on the Early Settlers of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania"; compiled for private distribution by Horace Leander Haldeman; Haldeman Mansion Preservation Society Archives.

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Newsletter Editors—Elaine Jackson & Dale Good

New or Renewal Membership Application for HMPS

2021

Name _____	Circle	Your Amount	Benefits*
Address _____	Student	\$ 10	1
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	Associate	\$1,000	1,2,3,4

Do you want your newsletter sent by email or regular mail? _____

Donations: \$ _____ Contribute to HMPS Matching Fund for grants requiring a match

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\$ _____ Contribute to HMPS Endowment Trust for preserving its artifacts

\$ _____ Other _____

Donations made to the Haldeman Mansion Preservation Society are tax deductible under Section 55 C (3) of the Internal Revenue Service. The official registration and financial information of the Haldeman Mansion Preservation Society, Inc. may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not mean endorsement.

Return this form with your check to:

HMPS

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*Benefits by Type of Membership Fee:

1/ Free Newsletter Subscription

2/ Free Parking at Events

3/ Two Personal Tours for Family and Friends

4/ Fifty Percent Discount for events having fees, e.g., Victorian Tea, Tavern Dinners



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